

THE HONORABLE RICARDO S. MARTINEZ

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al.,

Defendants.

NO. 2:70-cv-09213-RSM

Subproceeding No. 89-3

JOINT MOTION FOR
APPROVAL OF STIPULATION
AND AGREEMENT, AND
ORDER

NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR
PURSUANT TO LCR 7(d)(1):

January 21, 2021

STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

The parties to this Stipulation and Agreement (Agreement) are the Suquamish Tribe, the Swinomish Tribe, the Tulalip Tribes, and the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe (collectively, the Tribes), and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (State).

These parties co-manage Dungeness crab fisheries within management Region 2 East.

Accurate accounting for harvest is an important component of fishery management. Individual harvesters sometimes do not fully comply with catch reporting requirements. Thus, fishery managers may employ an estimate of unreported catch (EUC).

This Agreement relates to the identification of EUC for State recreational harvest of Puget Sound Dungeness crab harvested from within area 2-East.

1 The Parties have previously met to exchange technical information relating to
 2 computation of EUC for Region 2 East, and have met at a policy level to review that
 3 information, but have been unable to agree upon a mutually satisfactory EUC metric to employ
 4 each year when accounting for State recreational harvest. In order to arrive at a mutually
 5 agreeable EUC metric that will be employed each year, the Parties have agreed to dispute
 6 resolution as contemplated in the Shellfish Implementation Plan, but rather than employ the
 7 specific dispute resolution provisions of Section 9 of the Shellfish Implementation Plan, they
 8 have developed and agreed on an alternative process for resolving the issue of an EUC metric
 9 for State recreational harvest of Dungeness crab from within Region 2 East.

10 Accordingly, the Parties agree as follows:

- 11 1. An agreed panel of three non-party scientific/technical experts will be hired and
 12 convened to establish an EUC metric for State recreational harvest of Dungeness
 13 Crab from within Region 2 East. The panel, and its deliberations, will proceed
 14 based upon the Services Contract (including the Performance Work Statement and
 15 Meeting Protocol incorporated therein) executed with each of the three science
 16 panelists, an exemplar of which is attached as an Exhibit to this Joint Motion for
 17 Approval of Stipulation and Agreement and [Proposed] Order.
- 18 2. The cost of the expert panel deliberations will be shared as follows: Half paid by
 19 the State and the other half paid by the Tribes who will apportion that shared cost
 20 as they may separately agree upon.
- 21 3. The EUC metric determined by the expert panel shall be utilized to arrive at the
 22 annual estimate of unreported catch that may be associated with State recreational
 23 harvest of Dungeness crab from within Region 2 East until one of the following
 24 events occurs:
 - 25 a. The Parties agree in writing to modify the EUC metric; or
 - 26

b. One or more parties provides a written demand for modification of the EUC metric and an alternative EUC metric is established in the Shellfish Implementation Plan Section 9 dispute resolution process or an alternative dispute resolution process agreed upon by the parties. A written demand for modification shall include a statement identifying what specific changed facts or circumstances render the expert panel report and the EUC metric presented therein no longer valid or should no longer be applied because:

- i. the facts or the assumptions supporting the panel's analysis have changed or been superseded; or
- ii. Material changes in fishing practices or compliance with reporting catch have occurred; or
- iii. Methods of estimating unreported catch have been devised that will improve estimates and can be implemented with reasonable cost and effort; or
- iv. Any other changed fact or circumstance which casts doubt upon the validity of the panel decision.

4. The EUC metric determined by the expert panel is the product of this stipulation, and the Parties agree to be bound by the terms of this agreement in that regard. Accordingly, the EUC determined by the expert panel shall bind the Parties, without appeal or other recourse under Section 9 of the SIP, as they carry out co-management of Puget Sound Dungeness crab harvest pursuant to the SIP (subject to paragraph 3 above).

5. This Stipulation and Agreement shall be entered as a consent decree and order in subproceeding 89-3 of the above captioned case.

6. As a consent decree, the terms of this Agreement may be enforced by application to the Court for enforcement of its orders. The normal paragraph 25 pre-filing conditions shall apply prior to seeking such court enforcement.

Based upon execution of this Stipulation and Agreement of the Parties through the signature of their counsel of record below, the Parties hereby jointly move the Court for approval of the Agreement, and entry of its terms as an Order of the Court.

DATED this 19th day of January, 2021.

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Attorney General

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UPPER SKAGIT INDIAN TRIBE

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ORDER

The Court has examined the Stipulation and Agreement of the Parties. The Court concludes that the Stipulation and Agreement is fundamentally fair, adequate, and reasonable, both procedurally and substantively, in the public interest, and consistent with applicable law, and that it has been negotiated by the parties in good faith. *See Firefighters v. Cleveland*, 478 U.S.501 (1986); *United States v. Oregon*, 913 F.2d 576, 580-81 (9th Cir. 1990).

The Parties' joint motion to approve the Stipulation and Order is GRANTED. The Stipulation and Agreement of the Parties set forth above is hereby approved and adopted as an Order of the Court.

This Court retains jurisdiction to resolve disputes concerning the Stipulation and Agreement as described therein.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this 26th day of January, 2021.



RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Presented by:

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